

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF
HQUSAF
HQADCOM
HQAFSC
HQESD HANSCOM AB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 283206

FOR CHARGE MOFFAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MO US

SUBJECT: GEODSS MOROCCO

1. CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY HAS NOW BEEN GRANTED FOR
AMBASSADOR ANDERSON OR IN HIS ABSENCE FOR YOU TO SIGN
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON GEODSS. TEXT OF CLEARED
MOU IS GIVEN BELOW. FRENCH TRANSLATION FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

2. MOU IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL; SFRC AND HIRC WILL BE
PROVIDED CLASSIFIED COPY UNDER CASE ACT PROCEDURE.

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3. LEGAL ADVISER HAS EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR CON-
CLUSION OF UNDERSTANDING IN WRITING. BEARING IN MIND THAT
KING HASSAN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INSTALLATION OF GEODSS
ON MARCH 14, 1977, AND DELEGATED IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
TO FOREIGN MINISTER, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER TEXT TO
FONMIN AND REQUEST THAT TEXT BE AGREED TO IN FRENCH AND

ENGLISH VERSIONS THROUGH EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

4. SHOULD GOM ACCEPT TEXT AND SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF NOTES,
YOU SHOULD PROCEED AND REPORT CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT.

5. IF GOM PROPOSES CHANGES IN TEXT, YOU SHOULD REPORT
PROPOSALS AND SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. IF GOM CHOOSES
TO DEFER PROCEDURE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING KING'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION
IN PRINCIPLE, BUT ADVISE ASAP HOW AND AT WHAT LEVEL
MOROCCANS WOULD WISH TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT HERE.

6. PROPOSED MOU FOLLOWS:

TITLE: QUOTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
CONCERNING GROUND-BASED ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEEP SPACE
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. END QUOTE.

TEXT: QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MAINTAINS
SURVEILLANCE OF ALL MAN-MADE OBJECTS ORBITING THE EARTH,
INCLUDING SATELLITES AND THE BOOSTER TANKS AND ROCKET
MOTORS USED TO PLACE THE SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT.

RADAR SITES NOW BEING USED TO SEARCH FOR AND TRACK SOME
OF THE ORBITING OBJECTS ARE NOT GENERALLY ABLE TO MAINTAIN
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SURVEILLANCE OF OBJECTS ORBITING AT DISTANCES GREATER THAN
3,000 NAUTICAL MILES. AN ELECTRO-OPTICAL SYSTEM KNOWN AS
THE GROUND-BASED ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEEP SPACE SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM, OR GEODSS, WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SEARCH FOR
AND TRACK ALL SUN LIGHTED OBJECTS AGAINST A NIGHT SKY
BACKGROUND. EACH SITE OF THIS SYSTEM WILL BE EQUIPPED
WITH FOUR TELESCOPES OF ABOUT ONE METER IN DIAMETER, A LOW
LIGHT LEVEL TELEVISION CAMERA FOR EACH TELESCOPE, AND THE
CONTROLS AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN
ACCURATE POSITION MEASUREMENTS ON EACH OBJECT AND TRANSMIT
THE DATA TO A CENTERAL LOCATION FOR ANALYSIS. FIVE SITES
ARE TO BE LOCATED AROUND THE EARTH TO PROVIDE COMPLETE
COVERAGE OF THE HIGH-ALTITUDE EQUATORIAL REGION.

MOROCCO IS A PRIME LOCATION FOR BOTH GEOGRAPHICAL AND
METEROLOGICAL REASONS. NIGHTTIME WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE
OPTIMUM AROUND THE MARRAKECH-BEN GUERIR REGION AND THE
MOROCCAN LOCATION ALLOWS THE DESIRED CONTINUOUS COVERAGE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER GEODSS SITES. SITE SURVEYS,
CONDUCTED WITH THE FULL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE
ROYAL MOROCCAN AIR FORCE, CONCLUDED THAT BEN GUERIR AIR
BASE WOULD BE A DESIRABLE OPERATIONAL LOCATION FOR THE

GEODSS SITE WITH THE MEKNES AIR BASE AS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE SITE.

AFTER AGREEMENT ON THE SITE, CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-STORY OPERATIONS BUILDING AND FOUR TWO-STORY TELESCOPE TOWERS WOULD BEGIN IN 1980 AND OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN BY EARLY 1982. AN ADDITIONAL BUILDING MAY BE CONSTRUCTED AT SOME FUTURE DATE TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THE 35 PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE OPERATING THE SITE. THIS BUILDING WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 1982 OR LATER. THE LAND AT THE SITE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOM WITHOUT CHARGE, WHILE THE USG WILL BEAR ALL COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE SITE, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. THE PLANNED DURATION OF THE

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SITE OPERATION WILL BE TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF INITIAL OPERATIONS. THE GEODSS SITE WILL BE SUPERVISED BY FIVE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL (TWO OFFICERS AND THREE ENLISTED PERSONS), WITH A U.S. CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR (WITH AN ESTIMATED 30 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES) OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT. USAF PERSONNEL WILL BE ACCORDED THE STATUS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, AS SET FORTH IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. EQUIPMENT AND OTHER REMOVABLE PROPERTY, INCLUDING PERSONAL EFFECTS, BROUGHT INTO MOROCCO BY THE USAF OR ITS CONTRACTORS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITE WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE USAF OR ITS CONTRACTORS AND WILL BE ACCORDED DUTY FREE ENTRY AND EXIT.

CONSISTENT WITH OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, ASTRONOMICAL AND SATELLITE OBSERVATION DATA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MOROCCAN SCIENTISTS OR ASTRONOMERS. DETAILS WILL BE ARRANGED AFTER THE SITE BECOMES OPERATIONAL. THE SATELLITE CURRENTLY BEING USED TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS IN MOROCCO MAY BE MONITORED BY THE GEODSS SITE TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION AND TO PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF DYNAMIC MOTION IF A SATELLITE STABILIZATION PROBLEM SHOULD DEVELOP.

WHEN OPERATION OF THE SITE IS TERMINATED, THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS WILL REVERT TO THE GOM WITHOUT CHARGE FOR USE AS DESIRED. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 440862
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEODSS MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, TSPA, MO, US
To: RABAT
Type: TE
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